HARLEQUIN

Bedded, or Wedded?

Yuko Ichiju

Original Text by Julia James

Big bro
I plan to marry her
She's literally the woman of my dreams

How lovely.
Not really.
I just got an e-mail. My brother is getting married.
What's wrong, Xavier?
Even if you don't think she is the ideal bride, I don't care.
I love her
"Love" is ridiculous
That's all we need

And made him pay a fortune,
Only recently, some women conned him,
For a sick grand-mother that didn't exist.
My brother Armand
Is too kind and gets lost in his emotions.
Surveillance department? I need your help..
I'll check out this woman myself!

Jingle
Jingle
Ha
Ha
Ha
Chatter
Chatter
I'm so sorry
Watch what you're doing!
Ah!

I'm really sorry.
You're screwing up today.
Come on, Lissa.
I keep spacing out
I'm just so tired
How long do I have to live like this?
Hi, there.
Customers! Go!

Look!
I need to do this to earn money
But I think I've reached my limit.

A high-class customer. We don't get many of those here
So handsome!
Will you dance with me, miss?
Nothing to do with me though
Scream
Scream

What?
Hey!
Why Lissa?
What's your name?
L. Lissa.
I'll remember that.

But I feel like I can't breathe when I'm with him.
I'm used to men staring at me
23 noir.
To make him play as many chips as possible
Want to try the roulette?
My job is to make him spend money
You're lucky tonight.
Wow!
23
カラ Roll
カラ Roll
カラ Roll

No.
You make your own luck in life
I had fun. See you *mademoiselle*
Oh
I have a meeting in the morning.
He's going to leave me ..
Oh. Already?
I must leave.

I can't believe Armand wants to marry such a vulgar woman
That I set up and Armand manages
Because of the high-class brand Xzel

So what's so special about that cheap hostess?

As many pretty girls as we want

There are plenty of women who want us

They embraced and he went to Xzal's London office

According to the investigation Armand came out of her flat

I won't let her do that to my brother

These types of women use men as stepping stones to their own ends

How did she seduce Armand?

I will expose that woman!
Before Armand gets back from America
What am I thinking?
Swish
I don't have any time for a man
Even if he was my customer
No matter how attracted I was to him
It doesn't matter

Splash
Whirl
Ah!
Slam
Oh
I'm sorry, mademoiselle!

Oh ...
You look completely different!
Are you Lissa?
It's okay. The bus stop is just over there.
You're soaked. Let me drive you home.
I won't hurt you.
Ha!
I can't get into a stranger's car at this time of night.

Xavier Laurent.
Xzel
What's Xzel?
Sounds like you'd have no interest, but it's a fashion brand.
So, will you let me drive you?
Can you drive me to Trafalgar Square?
Okay
Slam

Thud
ドキッ
I feel like I will forget something important when I am with him
I must be careful
I can't breathe again
Blush
You think all hostesses are dumb?
Hmph
I didn't think a woman like you could speak French.
Yes, a little.
Can you speak French?

Um
Then,
Why is a clever girl like you working there?
Well, why did a gentleman like you,
come to a casino like that, then?
I said I'll take you.
Let me off. I'll get the bus.
Thud
Thud
Jerk
I
Need to get away from this man

Has a power I can't disobey
This man's voice
So, tell me your address.
But
South London.
Lissa?
Hanson Street.
Maybe it's too late

is she tired?
But she must be sleeping during the day
Zzz
Someone can change so much without makeup
I can't believe
I thought she'd be happy to take up an invitation from a rich man like me
Her reaction was not what I expected

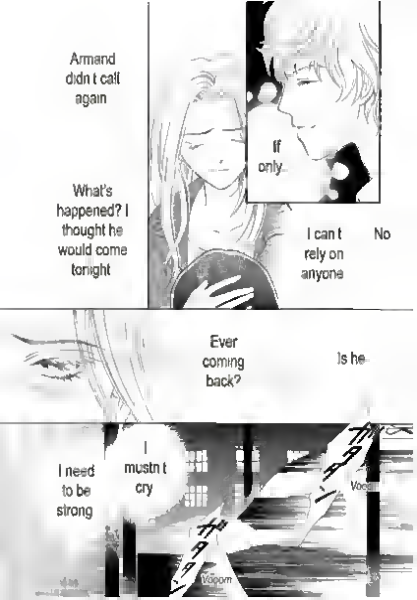
She's beautiful...
For hours...
I could watch her
What's happening to me?
She is my brother's girlfriend...
And she is an evil woman,
Who tricks men for her gain

Thank you for the lift.
I'm sorry! I...
Screech
Gasp!
We're here.
Wait!

Goodbye.

I want to get to know her more
I want to see her again
I'll never see him again, anyway!
Forget him
He is from a dream-world
Pant
Gasp
Tap
Tap

Welcome home Lassa.
Click Click
Peek
You need to stay in bed.
You're still up?
If I had a magic wand I would change this world
I love you.
Weight loss again?


Armand didn t call again
What's happened? I thought he would come tonight
If only
I can t rely on anyone
No
Ever coming back?
Is he
I need to be strong
I mustn t cry
Vroom
Vroom

I need to work day and night.
To save as much money as I can.
For...
My only ray of hope...

Visit a customer?

A rich Frenchman requested you
Go to the Soho Hotel.
Can't you say no?
He paid a lot of money. If you don't go, you're fired.
He wants to buy me.
What a man!
I'm not a prostitute.
I don't care if I'm fired. I'm not going.
Soho is this way.

Dash
だっ!!
Xavier Laurent!
Wait.
Let go of me, you pervert!
I just wanted to have dinner with you.
Do you think I'm stupid? I know what it means when you pay me to go to your hotel.

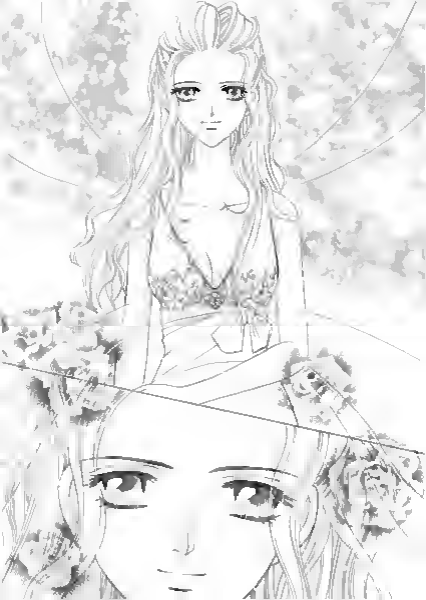
I just wanted to see you again.
You're wrong.
Look in the mirror.
Without wearing makeup.
Why
So I asked the ensemble to send you.
I didn't know when you had a day off.
Then you'll see why I want to see you again.

What am I doing?
Get in.
Yes.
It's ...
Really just dinner?
I know that I shouldn t get involved with this man
I need to be careful ...
I can feel my sensible self shrinking away
My heart beats faster and faster

XZEL
Stop the car.
Screech
キィッ
Get a dress here.
!
I don't have money.
I'll pay.
The restaurant has a dress code.
Then let's go somewhere cheaper.
A place with no dress code.
I only eat French food.
And in England I need to be careful where I choose.
Ha!
An English chef would kill him if he heard!
Giggle

All right. I don t like the idea of a man buying something for me, but.
Please. You can borrow the dress if you prefer.
Does she act this way toward all men?
With my looks and my status
I know I am attractive
I can usually seduce any woman i want.

I'm ready, Xavier
Tap
Why?
but these...is so hard to please.
It's so irritating!



I knew you'd look beautiful, but you're perfect!
I can't believe it...
Gulp

Xavier
You look lovely, Lissa.

It's like a dream.
I'm in such luxurious surroundings.
To meeting again.
Why is it so good?
Delicious! So different from the one at the casino.
Having dinner with such a handsome man
The grapes, weather
Many reasons.

Xavier's sweet voice and the champagne
And the vintner has a good nose.
Are casting a spell on me
He is penetrating every part of me
My sense of reason has melted away
I can't even breathe.

See him now
I can only
Lassa ...
I want you.
Touch t-

The spell is broken...
I can't —
Can you spend the night with me?
Squeeze
It's so irresponsible.
Yes.
There is someone very precious to me.
Is there someone else?
Why?

That's right.
You're just doing your job as a hostess.
Grin
Then why did you have dinner with me?
I...
Click
Sorry I misunderstood you.
I'll send a car.
Go back to the casino or to your "precious" person.
Damn!

But as soon as I reached out to her she rejected me
She looked at me with those eyes
Was she playing around with me?
Wait
"I can't."
What a woman!
Is she
Saving herself for Armand?
She said I can t" Not "I won t"

Then why did she look at me like that?
Not his money
Then does Lissa love Armand?
I don't understand... I don't get it!
But him?
I want her!
This isn't about Armand's marriage anymore
But I can't do anything about this feeling!

He might be attractive.
I deserve this for getting too excited
Who buy hostesses for their own pleasure.
But he's no different than other men.
Xavier...

I'm sorry I was a fool.
Let me apologize.
Wait.
I really only wanted dinner with you
But I was so shocked at your beauty in that dress
I thought you felt the same.
I'm sorry to have insulted you
Lissa. You are beautiful.
Even if you are taken, I still feel the same.

Goodbye, Lissa!

Xavier
Goodbye

Your next job is administration at an insurance firm.
Seesly Career Staff
I don't have to think then.
I just want to work.
I'm fine.
You look really tired.
Are you okay?

That was a dream that would never come true
I need to forget
I can't be the only one to be happy!
I was the only one who was fine...
My love life ended with that terrible accident...

I'll work day and night,
And get the money we need!
I can't forgive myself for that
With these wages?
But can I ever save enough money
Sob
I cannot think about him
No!
Or if Xavier
If... Armand could help...

Rumble
Rumble
Rumble
Splash
Splash
Light?
Is
it
Slam

Rumble
Hi.
Long time, no see, Lissa.
Flash
Rumble
Armand!
Oh ...

Hey.
Are you listening, Xavier?
I thought I would feel better if I saw Madeline.
Let's talk. It's been a while.
Yes ..
Sorry, but I'm going.
Click
Is this what heartbreak feels like?
All the color from my life is gone

I shouldn't have meddled in Armand's life
Xavier
No matter how I feel, Lissa will never be mine
Never!

I wanted to surprise you.
I'm sorry I didn't get in touch.

Oh.
Thank you, Armand!
I've got everything ready. It's finally going to happen.
It's worth it for what you are doing.
And I have to leave you alone.
I'll have to go to the U.S. again.
Thank you so much, Armand
Top

Armand went to America to make our dream come true.
Thank God!
It'll take about 3 weeks.
In my flat
Sang Clack
I have to wait on my own
Roar
ゴオオオ
What is Xavier doing now?
Clack
"Even if you are taken, I still feel the same"

I'm free for 3 weeks
I want to see him.
I'll never get another chance
Even if it's just for a day
No matter how hard I tried not to, I thought about him every day
Ring
I'll regret if I don't do this now
Ring
Click
Xael International.

He's in a meeting right now.
Um. Mr Laurent, please.

All right I will
Click
Something happened and I don't have the responsibilities I had.
Can ...
You give him a message? Tell him. My situation has changed.

He might not feel the same anymore.
I shouldn't be asking for more than the happiness I have now.
I'm
Like a clown
Beep
Beep
Beep

That s right.
I just need to pray that Armand brings good news
Ping
Pong
Xavier!
Lassa, it's me
Armand... it can't be
Slam

Is it true that you are free?

Does that...
Mean you will be mine?
Yes!
ばんざーい
Woohoo!

Let's go.
Where?
Paris.
I want you to visit the town I live in.
And we can spend a wonderful time together

Finally,
We're alone.
Lucas?

I want to run away
Can I satisfy a man like him?
I'm sorry. I'm not ready...
Look at me.
You're beautiful, Lissa.
The man of my dreams is before me
I want to touch you first.
No.

Push
Xavier
Belle

A man like Xavier...
Someone will take him away from me
Can have any woman he wants
This
Probably won't last.
I wasn't tricked or forced ...
But I came here of my own will

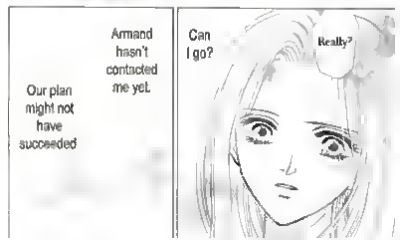
The memory of this night,
Even if it's only for one night,

Will shine
in me
forever

What's happened to me?
Love is ridiculous
Losing sight of yourself because of feelings is ridiculous
Is the most important thing right now
The fact that Lissa is with me
But right now I don't mind that.

Bonjour, chérie
I thought it might have been a dream.
It was such a perfect night.
I was scared to open my eyes.
Why?
When you finish that, pack your things.
Good.

They're close to Cannes. Not far from the mainland.
Why?
Thud
I have a holiday home...
On one of the islands.
Do you know the Lerins Islands?
Is he throwing me out?


Armand hasn't contacted me yet.
Our plan might not have succeeded
Can I go?
Really?

I need to go back to my old life...
It we fail
Come.
But I want to be with him
I don't want to waste even a second
Please God
Just give me
A little more time

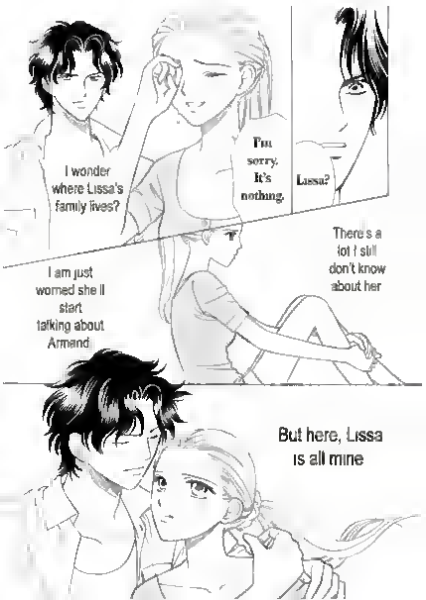
Lérins Islands
Wow!
わあっ
It's a paradise!
This is the first time I have brought someone here.
Really!
I took 2 weeks off. For the first time in 6 years.
How about work?

What's that?
Your clothes, shoes and jewels.
Such a pretty house.
Don't buy things like this for me.
Please, Xavier
But I want you to dress up for me while you're here.
And,
I get to take them off you, too.

I should enjoy the time I have with Xavier
I can't keep thinking about how this will eventually end

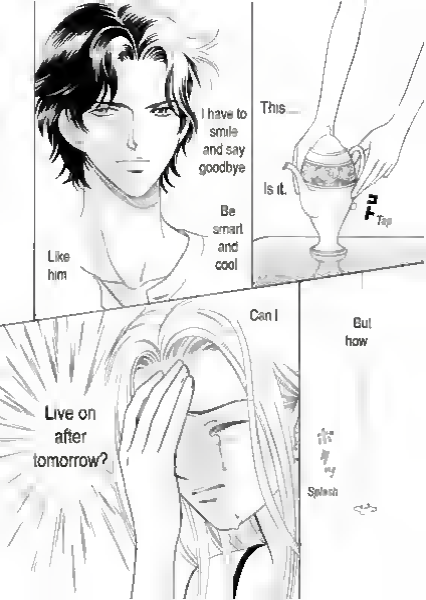
Pull
Stop reading boring articles, Xavier.
And come treasure hunting with me

I agree.
It's sad when nature gets spoiled, like the Côte d'Azur.
I wish all of the south of France was like this.
I'll get frostbite.
It feels so good! You do it, too.
Splash
Everyone was happy back then
My dad liked playing golf.
I used to go swimming in Scotland.
Don't be chicken. The sea in England is colder.


I wonder where Lissa's family lives?
I'm sorry. It's nothing.
Lissa?
There's a lot I still don't know about her
I am just worried she'll start talking about Armand
But here, Lissa is all mine

Elle est belle...
I cannot imagine a world without her
I can't...
Ever let her go

Clank
We need to go back to Paris the day after tomorrow
I'm sorry
But I need to get back to work.
If it's work,
I guess we have no choice.


I have to smile and say goodbye
Be smart and cool
Like him
This...
Is it.
Tap
Can I
But how
Live on after tomorrow?
Splash

What's wrong?
We'll be on the move,
but we can be together
It's just for a week.
Then we go to Munich and Vienna.
Am I coming with you?
Of course.
Are you surprised?
That you still want me.
Flabbergasted...

Come.
Xavier
I never thought I would feel this way, either, but you changed me.
Xavier!
Be careful

But
I'm
So
happy
Xavier
loves
me
Splash
Squeeze
Can I
Really
stay
with
him?

Ring
Ring
Armand
hasn't
called yet.
What's
happened?
Did our plan
succeed?

Armand!

Armand! I'll love you forever!
I am so happy!
That's wonderful! Are you sure?
Lassa?

Yes
—
Of
course!
Marry?
Are
you
serious?
Oh
—
As
you
wish!
I'll fly
there
right
away!

Tap

Armand and Xavier
I can tell Xavier everything now
I owe it to him
I have to be honest
Tap
Xavier?
Xavier.
Why are you wearing a suit?
Are you leaving today?

Did you think...
You could play me for a bit longer?
Thought what?
Ha!
Go to Nice.
There is a flight to London from there.
London? I thought

Go back to London.
Go back to your flat.
And marry your rich boyfriend and be happy.
What?
...?
Armand proposed to you!
You're going to love him forever, right?

But you can't fool me anymore.
I will not let you ruin my brother Armand's life.
I bet you have a fantastic excuse lined up.
I know.
Wait, you...
Wait...
I will never allow it!
Armand... Is your brother?
But his name is Boucau.
My step-father's name.
Then... Why...

Why did I approach you?
To protect my precious brother, that's why!
How much did you take from him?
What do you want? His money?

Sway
You probably told him you had a sick relative, right?
Took advantage of his kindness!
Bang
How could
This have happened?

I nearly married you myself.
You were good in bed.
It's such a shame, *chérie*
Tell Armand you can't marry him
Tap
Tap

All right?
I'll be watching you.
Never see him again.
Nod
Xavier,
Wait!

Xavier

Tap
Tap
But it was all a lie
I trusted Xavier

I thought he really wanted me
I thought he came to my casino by chance
I can still feel him on my skin.
Was all a lie
His kind smile his love
I can still hear his breathing
I think I am going to go insane
I should stop feeling
Feel nothing...

I was fooled
Why did this have to happen?
Until my brother proposed to her
But she was just biding her time
I took Lissa to that island
Insincere, worthless woman!
How could she betray me?
Clench
I shouldn't think about her
She s gone now

No,
She never even existed!
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Yes.
Lessa, it's good to work hard,
but don't push yourself.

Bzzz
Bzzz
It's from Armand
I quit my job at the casino thanks to Armand,
But I feel saved by my job now
Everything's set for the wedding this weekend.
I'm sending you plane tickets
Xavier took a lot from me
I'm so glad

But...
I'll protect this from him!
Bababaha
Bababaha
Xavier, listen.
Armand is getting married!

Your dad and I haven't met her yet,
But he says the wedding day's already been set.
And it's this Saturday!
He says, "She may not be an ideal bride but I love her..."
What does he mean? I'm worried.
How did Lissa get past my guards?
I shouldn't have ignored Armand's calls
I need to tell him everything before the wedding!
I am going to stop this wedding whatever it takes!

You made it!
It's starting.
Oh, Xavier.
Tap
I've never seen such a pure and pretty rose
Beautiful.
But...
I will expose her to everyone!

I need to speak to him right away.
Where is Armaud?
These two cannot be married!
You all don't know!
Can it not wait, Xavier?
Now?
Will Armaud's bride.
truly make him happy?
What do you think?

I think he will be very happy.
Yes
But the woman he is about to marry is...
Really?
Click

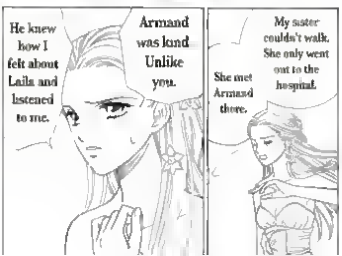
I promised.
I would walk down the aisle.
Yes, and you did.
You'll get stronger every day.
スン
Slump
Xavier!
Let me—
Introduce you. This is my bride, Laila Stevens.

her sister, Lissa.
And this is
Husband and wife.
By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you.

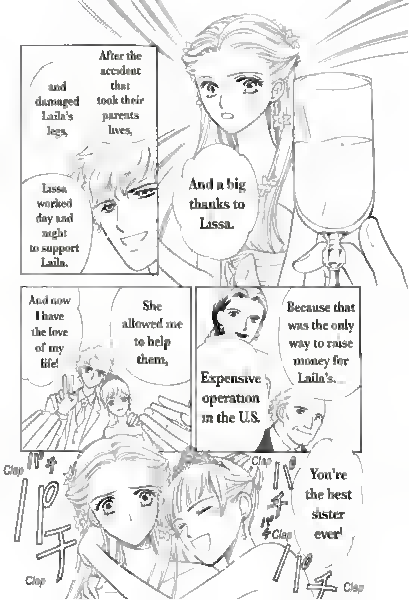
We need to talk

You had already decided I was a wretched woman.
who was after your brother.
You wouldn't have listened even if I told you.
Why didn't you tell me the truth?

Said only you came out of that flat.
My surveillance team.


He knew how I felt about Laila and listened to me.
Armand was kind Unlike you.
She met Armand there.
My sister couldn't walk. She only went out to the hospital.

Even if ...
some horrible man orders me to visit him at a hotel!
Click
Click
Click
Listen, spoiled child.
There aren't many good night jobs.
The pay is better as a hostess than a cleaner.
A toast.
To Laila, who made me the happiest man in the world.


After the accident that took their parents lives,
and damaged Laila's legs,
Lassa worked day and night to support Laila.
And a big thanks to Lassa.
Because that was the only way to raise money for Laila's...
Expensive operation in the U.S.
She allowed me to help them,
And now I have the love of my life!
You're the best sister ever!
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap

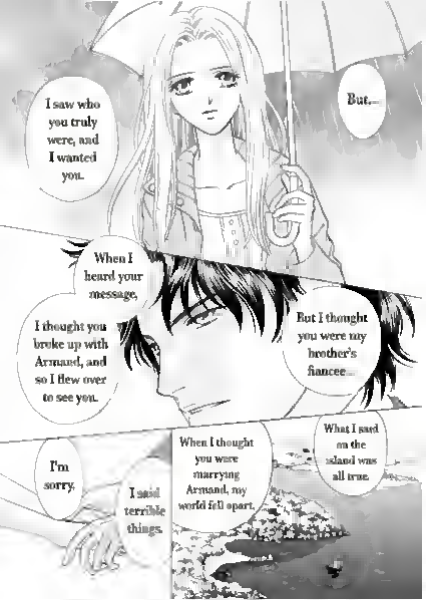
Flicker
As long as Laila is happy
I don't care about my happiness
かんぱーい
Cheer
Are you tired?
You should rest.
Glack
I'll take her
Splash
Laila.

Hey.
Can you show Lissa around the mansion?
It's okay. We're married now. Leave her to me.
You should go. He's so handsome!
Here's a little bit of my happiness for you!

I couldn't say anything when you asked how much money I took from Armand.
Because he did give us money for the operation.
I wanted to. .
But you said I would have some excuse lined up.
Why didn't you defend yourself?
We were together for 2 weeks. Why didn't you tell me the truth?
If I knew it was for the operation, I wouldn't have cared!
You lied to me about the reason you approached me, too!

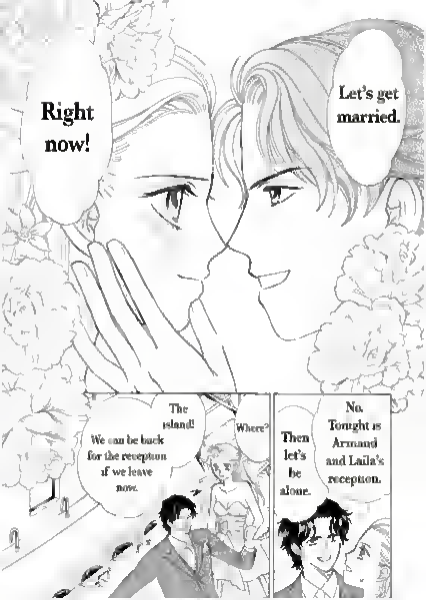
Armand has been tricked so many times.
I didn't mean to.
I wanted to know who he was marrying.
And threw me out as if I was dirty!
It still doesn't change the reason you approached me.
Even if you didn't know the truth,
Sob

Then,
How about this truth?
That—
Was to protect Armand, too.
I did go to the casino to check you out.


I saw who you truly were, and I wanted you.
But...
When I heard your message,
I thought you broke up with Armand, and so I flew over to see you.
But I thought you were my brother's fiancee...
I'm sorry.
I said terrible things.
When I thought you were marrying Armand, my world fell apart.
What I said on the island was all true.

Le cœur a ses raisons,
Que la raison ne connaît point.
A quote from Pascal.
"The heart has its reasons which reason does not know."
I should have realized this much earlier.
My heart is yours.

I tried to hate you.
The 2 weeks I spent with you...
Were the most wonderful I have ever had.
But I would have had to lie to myself.
Oh ...
My sweet girl.


Right now!
Let's get married.
Where?
The island!
We can be back for the reception if we leave now.
No. Tonight is Armand and Laila's reception.
Then let's be alone.

All I want is you.
Or do you want to go somewhere else?

Wherever I am.